

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/648,988
Attorney Docket: 46107-0083
Reply to Final Office Action of May 13, 2005

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is responsive to the Final Office Action dated May 13, 2005 wherein the Examiner rejects Claims 7, 9-11, and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,874,250 to Duer. Applicants have amended Claim 23 and cancelled Claims 12-16.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection and submit that the Examiner is arbitrarily labeling components of the present invention using hindsight. Applicants also respectfully submit that the Examiner's argument outlined in the Office Action dated May 13, 2005 is faulty and even fails on its face, regardless of improper use of hindsight, to anticipate the present invention.

The Examiner in the Office Action labels a base C, an insertion opening D and a center opening E. As claimed in Claim 7, the center section includes a base, opposite an insertion opening. However, in the Examiner's figure from the Office Action, the insertion opening D is clearly labeled on the same side as the base labeled C and therefore clearly does not anticipate the present invention as claimed in Claim 7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 7 and the claims depending therefrom are not anticipated by Duer.

Furthermore, in the Duer patent, the pin is shown going into the opening labeled 44 and does not show in any way what the Examiner has labeled as the center opening E as being capable of receiving a pin, much less the insertion opening D as allowing a pin to be inserted through, as claimed in amended Claim 23. The opening E picked by the Examiner is an arbitrary side opening not capable of receiving the pin in Duer. Furthermore, Claim 23 claims a center opening defined by the center section. The opening picked by the Examiner is not defined by the center section, but by a portion of the center section and the legs. Therefore, Duer does not

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anticipate Claim 23. The present invention, as shown in Figure 1, includes gaps on each side of the center section, defined between the center section and the legs. If, as claimed by Claim 23, "a pair of legs disposed on each side of the center section", how can the center opening, which is claimed in Claim 23 as being defined by the center section, be defined as suggested by the Examiner, i.e., by the center section and the legs disposed on each side of the center section? Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 23 and the claims depending therefrom are not anticipated by Duer.


Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in a condition for allowance.

Prompt and favorable consideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 7-13-05

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Enclosures

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